

Message Text

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SUBJ: AMSPEC HENRY SMITH III

1. HENRY P. SMITH III, AMSPEC, "CONGRESSIONAL CONCERN WITH HUMAN RIGHTS". ID-99.

2. QP-G ED-G AR-G RP-F

3. FORMER CONGRESSMAN HENRY P. SMITH III ATTENDED A SERIES OF INFORMAL MEETINGS ARRANGED BY USIS JAKARTA FROM DEC. 20TH TO 24TH. THE TIMING OF SMITH'S VISIT WAS UNFORTUNATE, AS MANY PROMINENT INDONESIANS, MOSLEMS NOTWITHSTANDING, AVAIL THEMSELVES OF THE CHRISTMAS AND NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAYS. THE MEETING AT FACULTY OF LAW, UNIVERSITY OF INDONESIA, THE NATIONAL INSTITUTE FOR LEGAL GUIDANCE AND AT DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE'S CRIMINOLOGY SECTION, PROVIDED SMITH WITH AN OVERVIEW OF THE STATE OF THE JUSTICE SYSTEM IN INDONESIA. BASED ON HIS EXPERIENCE AS A LAWYER, JUDGE AND CONGRESSMAN, MR. SMITH WAS ABLE TO ANSWER QUESTIONS

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ABOUT THE FUNCTIONING OF THE U.S. LEGAL SYSTEM, ALTHOUGH HIS OBSERVATIONS MAINLY SERVED TO DELINEATE HOW GREAT THE GAP IS BETWEEN OUR SYSTEM AND THEIRS, PARTICULARLY IN THE REALM OF HUMAN RIGHTS. FORMER CONGRESSMAN SMITH'S MOST SUBSTANTIVE EXCHANGE TOOK PLACE AT A MEETING WITH THE INDONESIAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION. THERE, IN THE PRE-

SENCE OF A WELL-KNOWN JUDGE, INDONESIA'S MOST PROMINENT FEMALE LAWYER, AND AN OUTSPOKEN CIVIL LIBERTARIAN, SMITH HAD A FRANK EXCHANGE ON THE LEGAL ISSUES SURROUNDING POLITICAL CRIMES AND SOLUTIONS, I.A., SUBVERSION, TREASON, AND IMPEACHMENT. THOSE PRESENT WERE IMPRESSED THAT MR. SMITH HAD TAKEN PART IN THE WATERGATE HEARINGS, AND RE-ITERATED THAT THE OPENNESS OF THOSE PROCEEDINGS AND THE SUBSEQUENT INDICTMENTS AND CONVICTIONS WERE A TRULY IMPRESSIVE DISPLAY OF WHAT RULE UNDER LAW SHOULD BE.

4. HENRY SMITH'S EXPERIENCE AS A POLITICIAN SERVED HIM WELL IN HIS ROLE AS AMSPEC, AS HE WAS ABLE TO TAILOR HIS DISCUSSION TO THE INTERESTS OF THOSE LISTENING. THIS FACILITY HAD AN UNFORTUNATE ASPECT, HOWEVER, IN THAT IT OCCASSIONALLY RESULTED IN A RATHER SUPERFICIAL TREATMENT OF ISSUES OF IMPORT TO THE INDONESIANS, LIKE HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND THE LEGAL CONTROL OF THE MULTI-NATIONAL CORPORATION.

5. IF MR. SMITH DOES MAKE IT OUT TO MANILA NEXT YEAR, THE POST MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN HAVING HIM BACK, BUT HOPEFULLY IN A MORE FORTUITOUS TIME-FRAME.

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